

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

JANUARY 25, 1911

The meeting of January 25 was held in the museum building of the New York Botanical Garden at 3:45 P.M. President Rusby occupied the chair. Twenty-two persons were present.

The minutes of the meeting of January 10 were read and approved. The name of W. W. Eggleston was proposed for membership. It was then voted to accept the resignations of Mr. S. B. Parish and Miss Louise Bruckman.

President Rusby, chairman of the committee on the "budget" for 1911, submitted a report on a special meeting held January 21.

The report was approved and the recommendation of the committee to borrow \$400 from the permanent fund was adopted by unanimous vote.

The application of Norman Taylor for a grant of \$200 from the Esther Herrman fund to enable him to make further investigations on the flora of the Catskill Mountains and of New Jersey was read and ordered forwarded to the Council of the New York Academy of Sciences with the unanimous approval of the club.

A communication was read announcing the death of Frederic Ehrenberg and the secretary was authorized to extend the sympathy of the members of the Club to the relatives of the deceased.

Dr. William Mansfield was unanimously elected delegate to the Council of the New York Academy of Sciences, and Dr. C. A. Darling and W. W. Eggleston were elected to membership in the club.

First on the announced scientific program was a discussion of "Two New Species of Edible Fruits" by Dr. H. H. Rusby.

These fruits were both from Mexico, one being *Morus mollis* Rusby, the other *Linociera macrocarpa* Rusby. Their descriptions will appear in an early number of the *Bulletin*.

The second number on the program was "Notes on Cuban Ferns" by R. C. Benedict. An abstract prepared by the speaker follows:

"Cuba promises to be especially rich in ferns. At present it is not very thoroughly explored botanically, but by comparing the number of species in certain genera now known from Cuba with the total number of species in these genera known from North America, it appears probable that eventually Cuba will prove to be as rich in ferns as Jamaica is now known to be.

"To illustrate with one genus, *Anemia* as presented in the North American Flora, Volume 16: part I, is recognized as having twenty-six North American species, with ten in Cuba. Recent collections for the New York Botanical Garden have included material of three species not accredited to Cuba in the Flora. The list of Cuban anemias now stands: (previously recorded) *A. phyllitidis*, *A. Underwoodiana*, *A. obovata*, *A. pastinacaria*, *A. Wrightii*, *A. cicutaria*, *A. speciosa*, *A. cuneata*, *A. coriacea*, *A. adiantifolia*; (to be added) *A. nipeënsis* Benedict (new), *A. aurita* (either this or undescribed), and *A. sp.* (probably undescribed).

"Thus, Cuba now has thirteen out of twenty-eight, and in the total number, there are several species now found in neighboring islands, and which may be expected in Cuba.

"Some of the Cuban species of *Anemia* are especially interesting. For example, *A. pastinacaria* has been found in the West Indies only in Cuba, but is native also in Mexico and South America. *A. speciosa* has a somewhat similar distribution. Mrs. N. L. Britton has collected in Cuba material here identified as *A. speciosa* which exceeds Mr. Maxon's North American Flora description, in that it has leaves twice-pinnate below instead of merely pinnate.

"*Anemia nipeënsis* Benedict, was collected by Dr. J. A. Shafer in the Sierra Nipe, a hitherto botanically unexplored Cuban mountain range. The plant indentified as *Anemia aurita* is similar to small Jamaican specimens of this species but is not certainly the same."

The next number on the program was "Reviews of Recent Moss Literature," by Mrs. N. L. Britton.

Mrs. Britton gave a brief abstract of three recent publications which contain references to or descriptions of North American Mosses as follows:

"1. The mosses of Swedish-Lappland by Arnell and Jensen contains a reference to *Polytrichum gracile* var. *anomalum* with a record of its occurrence in Maine. The ecological studies and tables are of much interest and the nomenclature follows that of Lindberg's mosses of Scandinavia of 1879 and adopts the oldest specific name and the original generic name in its primitive sense.

"2. The non-European or exotic mosses by Dr. Georg Roth as a sequel to his European mosses in which an attempt is made to describe and figure all mosses from original specimens. In the first part, the genus *Andreaea* is treated, including 102 species of which 5 are North American and 28 from South America, all but 13 of these illustrations have been drawn from original material and the coöperation of many prominent bryologists and botanical institutions has been secured so that this publication will be of great value to American students.

"3. In the December number of the *Journal of Botany*, Mr. H. N. Dixon has a new genus of mosses and a contribution to the bryology of India, including some from the Mitten Herbarium. As Mr. Dixon and Monsieur Cardot are the two most prominent bryologists who have recently followed the 'Kew Rule' in the nomenclature of mosses, we welcome the statement made on page 303 that "The nomenclature of Brotherus in Engler and Prantl Pflanzenfamilien has been and will be followed hereafter in these lists."

"4. In the *Bulletin* of the Botanical Society of France, Memoir 17, Monsieur Dismier has recently published a revision of *Philonotis* of America including 8 species and 4 subspecies from North America with an extension of range northward into Florida, Louisiana and Texas of *P. gracillima*, *P. sphaerocarpa* and *P. tenella* and the description of two new subspecies *P. fallax* and *P. americana*. Stations and numbers of specimens are cited in detail and M. Dismier promises to continue the study of the genus."

Dr. W. A. Murrill then exhibited a specimen of an interesting fungus which had grown in total darkness in a mine. It was completely sterile not even having conidia. The specimen which he called *Elfvingia megaloma* showed several regions of growth corresponding to the age in years of the plant.

Dr. N. L. Britton showed several specimens of *Zamia* and Miss Pauline Kaufman exhibited several varieties of edible nuts recently appearing in the markets of New York City.

Adjourned.

B. O. DODGE,  
*Secretary.*

FEBRUARY 14, 1911

The meeting of February 14, 1911, was held at the American Museum of Natural History at 8:30 P.M., with President Rusby in the chair. Eleven persons were present. The minutes of the meeting for January 25 were read and approved.

The announced paper of the evening on "Floral Features of Mexico" was then presented by Dr. H. H. Rusby and illustrated by lantern-slides. This paper appears on another page of TORREYA.

Meeting adjourned.

B. O. DODGE,  
*Secretary.*

MARCH 14, 1911

The meeting was held at the American Museum of Natural History. The meeting was called to order by 8:15 with Dr. E. B. Southwick in the chair. Twenty-eight persons were present.

The minutes of the meeting for February 14 were read and approved. On the motion of Mr. G. V. Nash the regular order of business was dispensed with for the evening.

The scientific program consisted of a lecture on "Orchids, Wild and Cultivated," by Mr. Geo. V. Nash. The lecture was illustrated by a large number of beautiful lantern slides. An abstract of the lecture prepared by the speaker follows:

"By the general public any odd or strange flower was considered an orchid, and as an illustration of this common error nepenthes and bromeliads were cited. [The large division of endogenous plants to which the orchids belong was illustrated with a slide of the lily, this being taken as typical. Especial attention was called to the stamens and pistil which are distinct in this flower. As an illustration of a typical orchid flower a slide of *Cattleya* was shown. The uniting of the stamens and pistil

into one organ, known as the column, was pointed out as the distinctive character of the orchid.

“Another interesting feature is the diversity of the lip-form. The lip is one of the petals. In some forms, such as *Odontoglossum*, it much resembles the other petals. In *Oncidium* it is markedly different in size and color; in *Cattleya* it becomes more modified by the inrolling of the base into a tube which surrounds the column; in *Dendrobium* a still greater modification occurs in the inrolling of the margins of the lip into a saccate organ; and in *Cypripedium* this tendency is greatly magnified, giving us the “slipper.”

“The stem or leaves of orchids are frequently thickened, thus serving as storage organs for water. The water supply of many orchids, on account of their habitat on trees and rocks, is very uncertain, and those thickened leaves or stems carry the plants safely through periods of drought. When the thickened stems are short, and round or oval, they are known as pseudobulbs.

“Some orchids grow in the ground and are known as terrestrial. These are commonly found in temperate regions, where dangers from frost exist. The majority, however, are epiphytic, that is, they grow on trees, and are found in warm temperate and tropical regions. The number of species is between 6,000 and 7,000, of which about 150 are found in the United States. The two great centers of their occurrence are: in the New World, in northern South America, northward into Central America, and in the West Indies; in the Old World, in India and the Malay region. A series of slides was then exhibited illustrating some of the common wild and cultivated forms.”

Meeting adjourned,

B. O. DODGE,

*Secretary.*

## FIELD MEETINGS

The following excursions are advertised by the field committee:  
 May 13.—Edenwald, N. Y. Meet at Terminus of 3rd Avenue Elevated R. R. at Botanical Garden, at 1 P. M. Fare 20 cents. Guide, DR. P. A. RYDBERG.